MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Schools which have been temporarily closed owing to the need for accommodation and additional buildings have not been shown in the answer. 15 schools show the number of schools which have been permanently closed not for want of accommodation.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know the number of departmental schools that have been temporarily closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No departmental school has been permanently closed. Last year 8 schools which had to be temporarily closed for a few days have been reopened, after finding out temporary accommodation.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know how that temporary accommodation was found out?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): In different ways in different places.

PRESIDENT: The member cannot expect to have the details of each place separately for his answer.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know from Government whether they are put up in rented buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Some of them are put up in rented buildings and some in buildings which have been lent to schools.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member the longest period for which a school was temporarily closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I can't give the accurate duration. But I think the maximum period is 15 days.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is there any special provision in the budget made for improving the conditions of the departmental school buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is the ordinary item "for construction and repair of school buildings".

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know whether the Director has appraised the Government of the necessity of having good school buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, he has.

School Hours.

108. ✻ MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any idea or proposal for changing the existing system of school hours; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the proposal is?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) Yes, in respect of Vernacular Schools.

(*b*) To adjust the working hours in relation to the occupation of the parents and children of each local area.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is the Government aware that the students of Vernacular Schools of mofussil go to their schools from distant places?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. The Government is aware

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from Government whether this changed school hour would affect their interest?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. It would affect their interest favourably.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that if the time is changed the children may not be able to attend their schools in time?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): From the answer given to the question it is clear the school hours are changed to meet the needs and requirements of the parents. Therefore classes are sometimes held in the morning, sometimes in the after-noon and sometimes in mid-day, to meet the varying needs of the local people.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Are the Government aware that the majority of the school-going children in Nedumangad attend the Vernacular Schools from a distance of 5 to 8 miles daily?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is possible. By changed hours the students avoid going from house to school twice in the day.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know the minimum age of school-going children?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): 5½

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is any change in school hours on Fridays in any schools of the State?

MR. R. M. STATHAN (*Director of Public Instruction*): No change from the existing practice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether any time has been extended on Fridays?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I suppose the member is aware of the Government order on Mahommedan education.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether by extending the period after the original school hours the children find it very difficult to go home in the evening?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Director of Public Instruction recommended to Government to alter the present system and to close at the ordinary time on Friday evenings. The proposal has been accepted by Government.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether there is any objection in exempting the Mahommedan children from attending at a particular period?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is a grave objection. They would lose their instruction for one period.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there would be any objection if that hour is utilised for drill or for music instruction ?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): For a student who is going for an examination in History, drill would be a bad preparation.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is any objection in the non-Mahommedan students doing drill while the Mahommedan students are attending prayer classes ?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is the same objection. Doing drill is as important as learning History.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member that a walk from the school to the mosque would not be a sufficient exercise for Mahommedan students ?

PRESIDENT: We will ask the Drill Instructor to appear here next time.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is there any proposal to change the hour of attendance in the Science College ?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

Reduction of School fees.

109 ***MR. J. M. JOSEPH** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the aggregate amount of loss per year in fee income caused by the recent reduction of fees in (i) the aided schools in the State, (ii) in the aided English Schools only ;

(*b*) the name of the aided English School which has suffered the heaviest loss and the amount of the same per year ;

(*c*) whether representations have been made by the managers of the aided schools about the financial hardship caused in their schools by this measure ; and

(*d*) what answer the Government gave to them ?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) (i) Rs. 2,20,624.

(ii) Rs. 2,02,130.

(*b*) S. D. V. English High School, Alleppey—Rs. 4,812 per year.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The whole question of compensation is under consideration and Government hope to be able to provide some form of assistance to schools which have really been seriously affected by the reduction of fees, keeping in view particularly the need for not reducing teachers' salaries.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): With regard to the answer to part (*b*), I want to know from the Government whether the sum of Rs. 4,812 is the amount accruing from what is stated, the debit balance, for the year's accounts of that school or whether it is the loss per year.

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